IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8-14 and replace them with new claims 21-33.

1-20. (Canceled).

21. (New) A trash can assembly, comprising:

an outer shell having an upper end and a lower end;

a lid pivotably coupled to the upper end of the outer shell for movement between an open position and a closed position;

an interior defined by the outer shell and the lid;

a pedal pivotably coupled to the lower end of the outer shell, and having an inner end;

a link rod having an upper end pivotably coupled to the lid and a lower end coupled to the inner end of the pedal, with the entire link rod being positioned inside the interior; and

a plastic support frame attached to the upper end of the outer shell, with the upper end of the link rod extending through the support frame.

22. (New) The assembly of claim 21, wherein a part of the support frame extends inside the interior in a manner such that an opening is defined between the upper end of the outer shell and the part of the support frame, with the upper end of the link rod extending through the opening.

23. (New) The assembly of claim 21, wherein the lid is pivotably coupled to the upper end of the outer shell about a pivot axis for movement between the open position and the closed position, with the pivot axis positioned inside the interior.

24. (New) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the part of the support frame is a straight wall.

25. (New) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the opening lies inside the interior.

26. (New) The assembly of claim 21, wherein the support frame has a top edge, with at least one groove cut from the top edge.

27. (New) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the support frame has a ridge that extends along top edge.

28. (New) A trash can assembly, comprising:

an outer shell having an upper end and a lower end;

a lid pivotably coupled to the upper end of the outer shell about a pivot axis for movement between an open position and a closed position;

an interior defined by the outer shell and the lid;

a pedal pivotably coupled to the lower end of the outer shell, and having an inner end;

a link rod having an upper end pivotably coupled to the lid and a lower end coupled to the inner end of the pedal;

a plastic support frame attached to the upper end of the outer shell; and

wherein the upper end of the link rod extends through the support frame, with the pivot axis positioned inside the interior.

29. (New) The assembly of claim 28, wherein a part of the support frame extends inside the interior in a manner such that an opening is defined between the upper end of the outer shell and the part of the support frame, with the upper end of the link rod extending through the opening.

30. (New) The assembly of claim 29, wherein the part of the support frame is a straight wall.

31. (New) The assembly of claim 29, wherein the opening lies inside the interior.

32. (New) The assembly of claim 28, wherein the support frame has a top edge, with at least one groove cut from the top edge.

33. (New) The assembly of claim 32, wherein the support frame has a ridge that extends along top edge.